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were made, among others the famous *Midrash hag-Gadol*. The commentary on the text is as full as those which Buber appended to his edition of the *Tanhumâ*, *Pesikta*, and minor Midrashim, which he has so ably edited. The place at which the Oxford MS. was written is, according to Buber, *הצן בני קרנ"ש*, which he explains as *צנעא*. The right reading, however, is *הצן בני קחאטיר*, a name which I do not find in the Index Geographicus to D. H. Müller's edition of Al-Hamdâni's *Geographie der Arabischen Halbinsel*.

### GROSS'S "GALLIA JUDAICA."

*Gallia Judaica : dictionnaire géographique de la France d'après les sources rabbiniques*, par HENRI GROSS ; traduit sur le manuscrit de l'auteur par MOÏSE BLOCH. Paris, 1897 (Léopold Cerf, Paris).

SINCE I have had the pleasure of knowing Dr. Gross, Rabbi at Augsburg (Bavaria), and that is more than thirty years, he has been working at the history of the French Rabbis in the north of France. His results he communicated mostly to the *Monatsschrift* (Frankel-Grätz), and also a few to the *Revue des Études Juives*. The results of his labours and researches are now put down in his present important works. He, or rather his translator from the German into French, classifies the matter under three heads—namely, (1) the identification of all the French geographical names mentioned in Rabbinical literature of the Middle Ages; (2) a notice of the history of the Jews in the places or provinces indicated by such names; (3) a literary notice of the Rabbis and Jewish writers who were born in, or bore the name of such places. Our author shows how difficult it is to identify the geographical names in Jewish writers, since they are sometimes corruptly quoted, or in other cases are written in the ancient form, e.g. *נרמיוא* Worms, *אבריוק* York. Attempts were made to identify French geographical names by Zunz, Carmoli, by the regretted Isidor Loeb, as well as by the writer of this review, the last being still in MS. Our author does not mention the difficulties concerning towns caused by a Hebrew translation of the name, e.g. *כוכב* from Estella (see p. 52) *בכמות*, not identified yet (p. 20). As to mistranscription, a better instance would have been Troyes in Champagne, transliterated rightly *טרוייש*, which became later *טרוייש*, and was taken for Trees (Treviso in Italy). Dr. Gross plucked up courage to publish his interesting volume under the auspices of the *Société des Études Juives*. His method is the following:—the names of

the town or locality according to the Hebrew alphabet, with the name in Latin, Old and Middle French, followed by the present name and the department in which it is now situated. An example will explain better. Article I, "אָטוּטאָ *Autun*. En vieux français Austiun, en Latin Augustodunum. Ville de Bourgogne, Département de Saône-et-Loire." The historic evidence is that, in a document of 1300, a certain Salemin d'Autun is mentioned. No Rabbinic School is known in this town. In the following article, which treats of Avignon, there follow, after the historical facts, the names of rabbis who resided and held schools in it. Thus, Dr. Gross's work is a kind of history of Jewish literature. Of course, our author had to take a great part of his data from Vols. XXVII and XXXI of the *Histoire Littéraire de la France*; of the latter, our author seems not to have had time or opportunity to make adequate use.

The arrangement of the towns and localities in *Gallia* ought to contain the Rhine, which we do not find in Dr. Gross's book, while York (אָרִיק), strange to say, is comprised among the localities of *Gallia*.

Dr. Gross had no opportunity of continuing his researches into MSS., as he had begun, and there are many lacunae. But such difficult studies cannot become exhausted. The old geography itself is not yet on a firm basis. An important feature in Dr. Gross's interesting studies are the many formulae of letters of divorce, which not only mention the localities, but also the river or rivers near it. The MSS. of Paris (Nat. Lib.), not very skilfully described, have many names of localities mentioning the transfer of them from one person to another, omitted in the catalogue by Zotenberg. The same is the case with the MSS. of the Vatican, Parma, Vienna, and many minor collections. For general purposes in Jewish literature this work will be found useful, more especially for the ample index at the end (1) of the geographical names in Hebrew which are found in the book; (2) of names of persons and families which are not found in the preceding index; (3) of the names of persons, towns, and countries; (4) of Hebrew works made use of; (5) of abbreviations; (6) of Hebrew books quoted; (7) works in other languages.

## MINOR LITERATURE.

I. A NEW edition of the *Massorah zum Onkelos* (first issue in the *Isr. Letterbode*, edited by the late M. Roest), by Dr. S. LANDAUER, with additions from the MS. Vat. 448, according to Dr. Berliner's copy. I think that the monograph will be welcomed by students of the Targums.